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𝔔ertificate

Standard Reference Material® 5001

Two-Dimensional Grid Photomask Standard

Serial No.: 3032385

This Standard Reference Material (SRM) is intended primarily for calibrating high accuracy two dimensional (X-Y) Photomask/Reticle registration metrology tools such as the IPRO, the IPRO II and the Leica 2020 as well as older tools such as the Nikon 5i. In particular, this calibration artifact can also be used in metrology tools capable of holding any artifact with these dimensions in need of a calibrated measurement field. An example of additional tools are defect inspection and classification tools, optical tools used in manufacture of flat panel displays or scanning electron microscopy tools used in photomask and wafer inspection.

SRM 5001 consists of a grid of 27 by 27 unit cells with a nominal 5 mm pitch between cells. Each cell consists of a frame, a solid box and a micro array as shown in Figure 1. This grid pattern is printed on fused-quartz substrate with nominal dimensions of 6.0 inches by 6.0 inches by 0.25 inches using Photomask production techniques [1,2].

The positions of the centers of the frames are reported in Table 2 (see appendix).

Expiration of Certification: The certification of SRM 5001 is valid indefinitely, within the measurement uncertainty specified, provided the SRM is handled and stored in accordance with the instructions given in this certificate, see "Instructions for Use". Periodic recertification is not required; however, this certification will be nullified if the SRM is damaged, contaminated, or modified.

Instructions for Care and Cleaning: Care must be taken when handling this SRM. Avoid touching the surface, especially with fingers or with the microscope objective lens while setting up and focusing. The surface may be cleaned by rinsing with distilled water with an added wetting agent, or with a clean organic solvent provided no residue is left. The materials are fused quartz and anti-reflecting (oxidized) chromium.

The overall direction and coordination of this work was managed by R.M. Silver and T.D. Doiron of the NIST Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory.

Measurements made on the NIST Linescale Interferometer were made by W.B. Penzes and J.S. Beers of the NIST Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory.

The statistical analysis was performed by J.M. Pedulla and T.D. Doiron of the NIST Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory with statistical help from N-F. Zhang and W.F. Guthrie of the NIST Statistical Engineering Division.

The support aspects involved in the preparation, certification, and issuance of this SRM were coordinated through the NIST Standard Reference Materials Program by C.S. Davis of the NIST Measurement Services Division.

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Certificate Issue Date: 03 May 2004

Robert L. Watters, Jr., Acting Chief
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History of SRM 5001:[1] As semiconductor features become smaller and the chips and wafers become larger, the accurate placement of features on the chip becomes more and more challenging. Photolithographic level to level and within die feature registration is a critical manufacturing parameter directly affected by the accuracy in which photomask feature placement is manufactured and measured. The current industry registration metrology of photomasks is based on very accurate and repeatable 2D measuring machines. These instruments, which cost millions of dollars, can now be calibrated with this traceable artifact and an appropriate calibration procedure.

NIST has co-led a SEMI task force on 2D measurements techniques and artifacts. This group, which includes representatives of leading measurement equipment manufacturers and users such as IBM, Intel, VLSI, Leica, and Nikon agreed on a standardized pattern of reference marks on a 160-mm grid plate. The patterns and reference marks used for the design of this SRM are based directly on these industry consensus designs.

Certification Technique: These SRMs were initially measured using a Leica LMS IPRO[1] by Photronics, Inc. The IPRO can measure two dimensional artifacts and has excellent repeatability, whose reported 3σ is approximately 5 nm. The SRMs were measured in two orthogonal orientations in order to evaluate scale errors and nonorthogonality errors. Additional measurements were made on NIST's traceable one dimensional Linescale Interferometer (LSI) to properly scale the IPRO measurements to the definition of the meter and to verify a subset of the IPRO measurements.

The data analysis procedure involved calculating the scale factor between the NIST LSI and the IPRO and applying this scale factor to all sets of IPRO data. Subsequently, the measurements were corrected for nonorthogonality errors by applying the ALBE3 algorithm [3]. Finally, various statistical analysis techniques were used to calculate the magnitude of other uncertainty components including: uncertainty in the scale factor correction term, uncertainty due to error map residuals, uncertainty due to line geometry effects, and sample printing variations.

From this analysis, we developed an uncertainty budget and a final certification procedure for this SRM. This uncertainty budget is based on the superb repeatability of the industrial tools with traceability resulting from the Linescale Interferometer. Effectively the industry tool used in the NIST calibration procedure is calibrated through a statistically and metrologically appropriate sampling strategy.

Calibration Uncertainty: The calibration uncertainty components and their values are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. SRM 5001 Calibration Uncertainty Components

Error Description	Type	Length Dependant	Value (nm)
Repeatability of IPRO	B	No	1.7
Uncertainty of the LSI	B	Yes	$3 \text{ nm} + 0.07 \times 10^{-6} \times L \text{ (nm)}$
Scale	B	Yes	$14.5 \times 10^{-9} \times L \text{ (nm)}$
Error Map Residuals	A	No	5
Thermal Expansion	B	Yes	Negligible
Elastic Deformation	B		Sampled in Scale Uncertainty
Line Geometry Effects	A	No	6

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[1]Certain commercial equipment, instruments, or materials are identified in this certificate in order to specify adequately the experimental procedure. Such identification does not imply recommendation or endorsement by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, nor does it imply that the materials or equipment identified are necessarily the best available for the purpose.
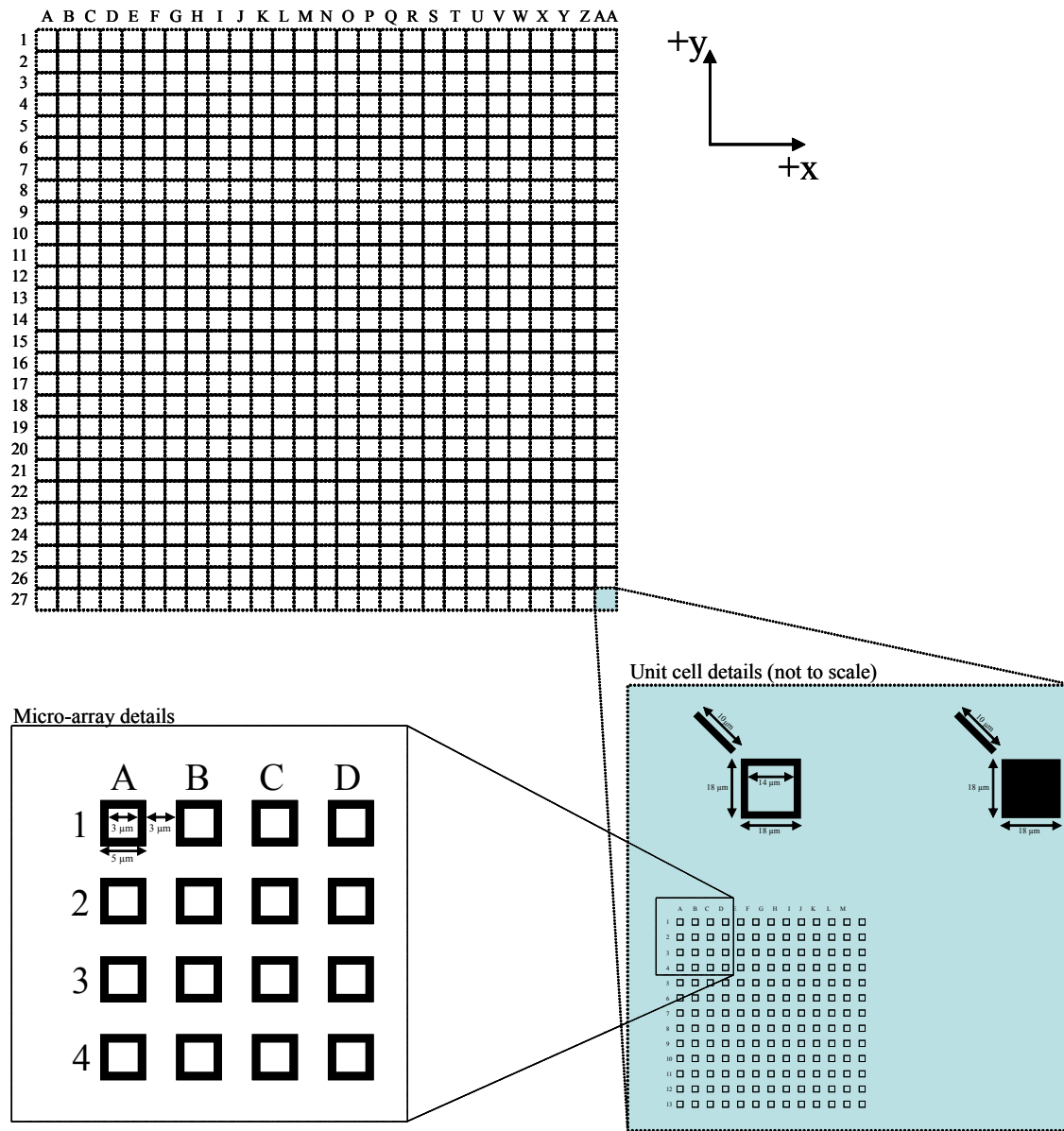
Figure 1. 2D Grid has 27 × 27 unit cells with a 5000 μm pitch. Each unit cell contains a single frame, a solid box, and a 13 × 13 micro-array of frames. Nominal feature dimensions: Frame: 2 μm lines, 18 μm edge to edge (square); Box: 18 μm edge to edge (square); Micro-array: 1 μm lines, 5 μm edge to edge (square), 8 μm pitch (center to center)

Repeatability of IPRO: IPRO repeatability is reported by Leica to be represented by a 3σ of approximately 5 nm. This error source is also sampled when the Error Map Residuals contribution (line item 4 in Table 1 is calculated); but it is difficult to separate the repeatability from the residual error map uncertainties. To be certain to properly account for this error source, it is essentially counted twice (line items 1 and 4 in Table 1).

Uncertainty of the NIST Linescale Interferometer (LSI): A complete description of the NIST Linescale interferometer as well as an evaluation of the measurement uncertainties is available [4].

Scale: The major error not sampled and corrected in the IPRO error mapping procedure is scale. For each plate we have compared the 2D measurements with two orthogonal lines on the plate measured with the NIST Linescale Interferometer. Typical comparisons of the two measurement orientations are shown in Figure 2.
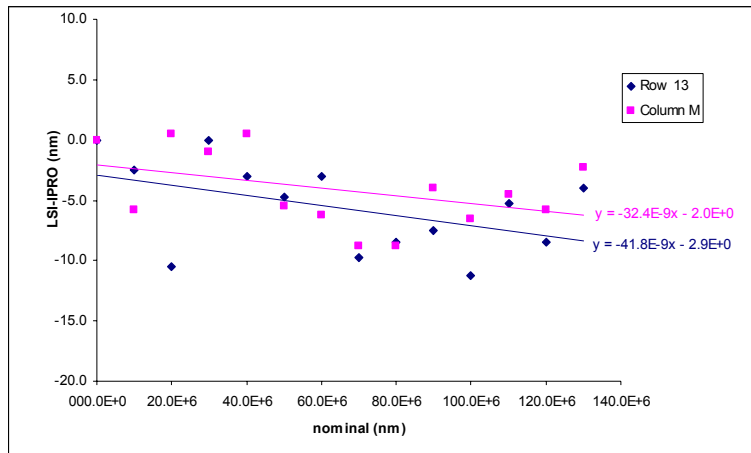
Figure 2. Comparison of scale factors calculated from measurements in two orthogonal orientations. The IPRO results were measured using its two axes while the NIST LSI results were measured by rotating the Photomask.

In general, the two scales are indistinguishable given the uncertainties of the NIST LSI and the IPRO. We combine the two axes and apply one scale factor correction (Figure 3) to both axes of the IPRO measurements.

Figure 3. Single scale factor applied to IPRO data from combined orthogonal orientations

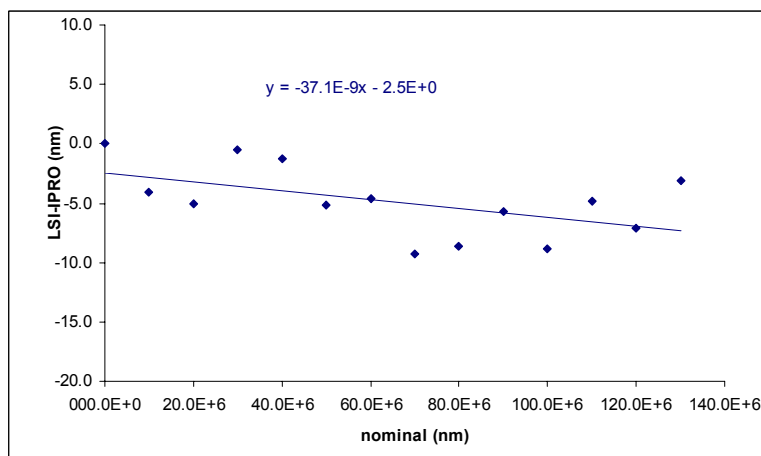The uncertainty in this scale factor is calculated by combining the NIST LSI uncertainties and the IPRO repeatability with the proper weights. This length dependant uncertainty is calculated to be:

$$u_{scale} = 14.5\text{E-}9 \times L \text{ (nm)}$$

Error Map Residuals: The reproducibility and error map residuals are sampled by measuring the plate in two orientations. The differences in these two measurements contain variability due to the short term repeatability of the machine and sensor system, day-day variations in the environment, and the residual error not compensated in the error map. The data were analyzed by comparing the distances between each two grid points in the two orientations. Since there are 196 points on each grid, there are $196 \times 195 \div 2$ or 19 110 different distances in the analysis. The graphs below show both a fuzz plot of all the differences for one sample (Figure 4a) and the standard deviations of the differences for each distinct nominal distance on the plates for all the samples (Figure 4b).
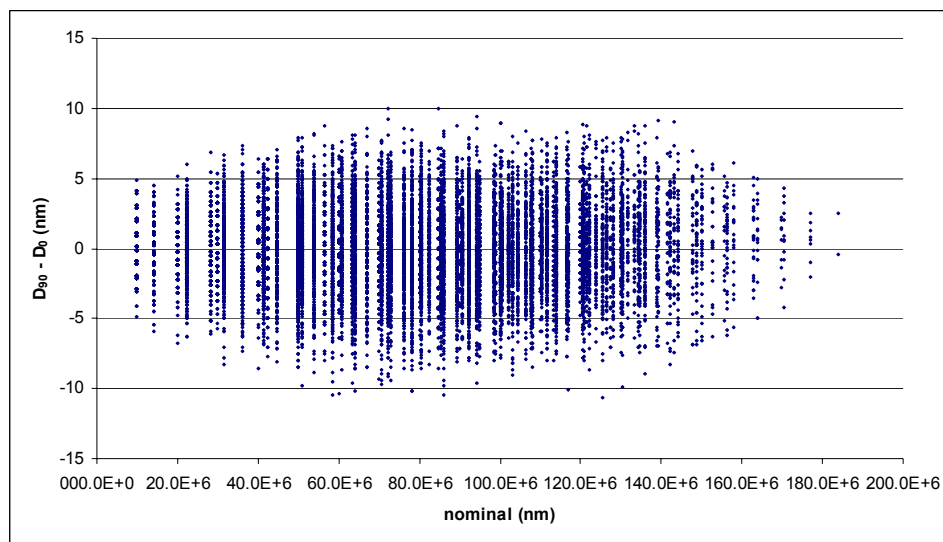
Figure 4a. Fuzz plot showing the differences between distances measured at two orthogonal orientations. For example, each nearest neighbor distance is calculated for each orientation and the difference taken. These are the set of points shown on the graph at a nominal distance of 10 mm.
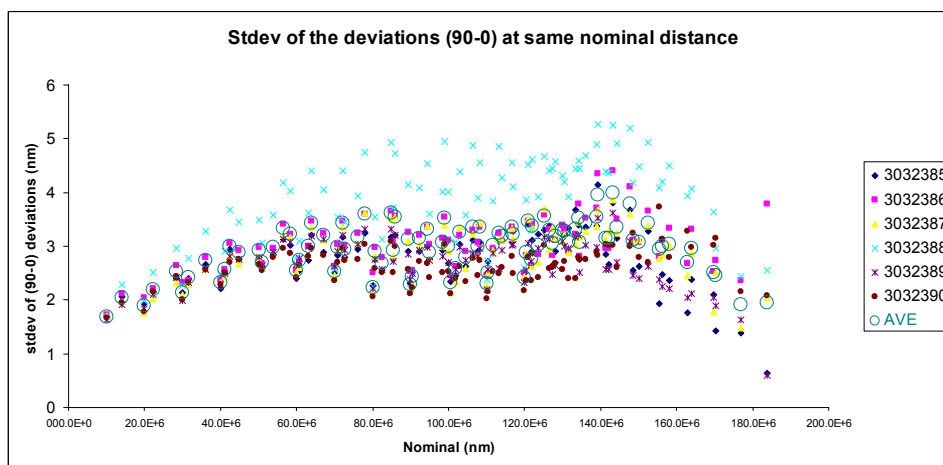

Figure 4b. The standard deviation of the difference between distances at the two orthogonal orientations is calculated for each nominal distance. This gives an estimate of the reproducibility and error map residuals.

These graphs show no length dependence. A worst case value is used as the standard uncertainty due to residual mapping errors:

$$u_{geometry} = 5 \text{ nm}$$

Thermal Expansion: The effect of thermal expansion is corrected when we measure the grid on the line scale interferometer. Since the linescale interferometer thermometer system has an uncertainty of less than 1 mK and the coefficient of thermal expansion of fused silica is 0.5 ppm/°C, the uncertainty from the plate temperature is negligible.

Elastic Deformation: The glass plate bends, and with the grid marks on the top surface (away from the neutral plane) any bending will change the distance between the grid marks. The plate is supported by three points at the edge of the plate in the 2D machine. The data are then corrected by the software to give the positions of the points for the undeformed plate. For the linescale measurements, the plate is supported at three points that produced negligible bending along the measurement line. Any error in the correction in the 2D data would be sampled adequately in the scale comparison, so there is not a separate estimate of the uncertainty of this effect.

Line Geometry Effects: The lines are, of course, not perfect. Measurements made using the inside edges of the lines and the outside edges of the lines showed systematic changes in the data. In fact the systematic changes in the grid mark positions caused by changing the edges of the lines were larger than those seen when the same edges were used but the plate rotated 90°. Experiments were performed where the center of the target (frame) was determined using the outside edges of the frame, and then re-measured using the inside edges of the frame. This shows the uncertainty in the frame position caused by variations in the frame line widths.

When the same edges were used, and the data compared the grid positions were very repeatable, with a standard deviation of slightly above 2 nm. When the positions found from the outside edges and inside edges were compared, the standard deviation rose to about 5.5 nm. This difference is caused by the variation in line width of the frames. The difference between these standard deviations, about 6 nm, is taken as the standard uncertainty in point positions from line width variations.

Plate to Plate Variation: For the plates that are not measured on the IPRO, the plate to plate variation found within the batch of plates is added. Note that for the first batch of SRM 5001, all plates were measured on the IPRO.

Combined Uncertainty: We have combined (RSS) the standard uncertainties from Table 1 for each nominal distance on the artifact. They are plotted in Figure 5. Also shown are two approximations to the combined uncertainty: a worst case linear relationship and a more accurate third order fit.

For the linear relationship:

$$u_c = 3.9 \times 10^{-8} \times L \text{ (nm)} + 8.6 \text{ nm}$$

For the 3rd order relationship:

$$u_c = -6 \times 10^{-25} \times L^3 \text{ (nm}^3) + 3 \times 10^{-16} \times L^2 \text{ (nm}^2) + 9 \times 10^{-11} \times L \text{ (nm)} + 8.6 \text{ nm}$$

The expanded uncertainty ($k = 2$) for the linear relationship:

$$\text{Expanded Uncertainty} = 7.8 \times 10^{-8} \times L \text{ (nm)} + 17.2 \text{ nm}$$

Standard uncertainty versus distance

$y = 4E\text{-}08x + 8.6023$

$y = -6E\text{-}25x^3 + 3E\text{-}16x^2 + 9E\text{-}11x + 8.6023$
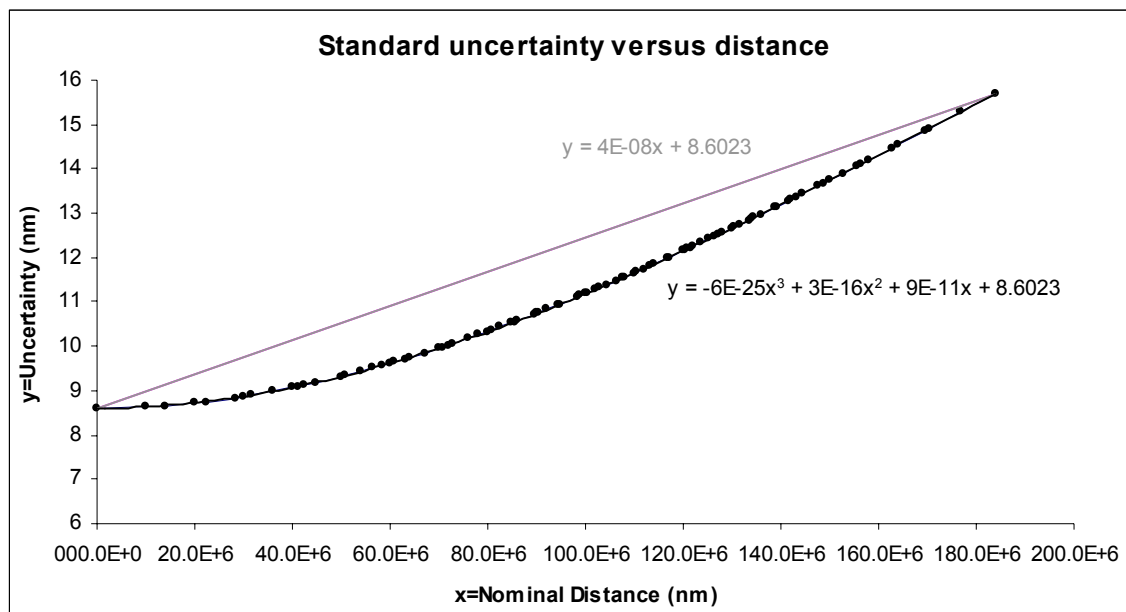
Figure 5. Combining the results in Table 1, we show the standard uncertainty versus distance (round markers) as well as two estimates of that uncertainty. A linear, worst case estimate and a more accurate third order fit.

Calibration Traceability: Traceability to the meter was established through the Linescale Interferometer by measuring both axes of several of the samples and calculating a scale factor correction which was then applied to all of the sample measurements.

REFERENCES

[1] Silver, R.M.; Doiron, T.D.; Penzes, W.B.; Fox, S.; Kornegay, E.; Rathjen, S.; Takac, M.; Owen, D.; *Two-Dimensional Calibration Artifact and Measurement Methodology*; Proc. SPIE, 3677, pp. 123-138 (1999).
[2] Evans, C.; Hocken, R.J.; Estler, *T. Self-Calibration: Reversal, Redundancy, Error Separation, and Absolute Testing*; *Annals of CIRP*, Vol. 45/2 (1996).
[3] Hocken, R.J.; Borchardt, B.R.; *On Characterizing Measuring Machine Geometry*; NBSIR 79-1752, Natl. Bur. Stand. (U.S.) (1979).
[4] Beers, J.S.; Penzes, W.B.; *The NIST Length Scale Interferometer*; J. Res. Natl. Inst. Stand. Technol,. Vol. 104, p. 225 (1999).

Users of this SRM should ensure that the certificate in their possession is current. This can be accomplished by contacting the SRM Program at: telephone (301) 975-6776; fax (301) 926-4751; e-mail srminfo@nist.gov; or via the Internet at http://www.nist.gov/srm.

APPENDIX

Table 2a:		Deviations from Nominal (nm) Calibrated Values for SRM 5001 SN: 3032385													
		Actual position in nm is given by (nominal value×1e6+deviation from nominal)													
		A	C	E	G	I	K	M	O	Q	S	U	W	Y	AA
1	X	-11	-8	4	-6	-2	-3	3	2	1	6	12	4	15	9
	Y	2	-3	3	4	7	2	1	4	7	5	13	14	26	19
3	X	-9	-15	-1	-10	-6	-8	-6	-2	-4	-5	7	-4	6	1
	Y	1	1	-3	3	2	-1	-2	-3	5	6	6	12	21	21
5	X	-8	-8	-2	-10	-3	-4	-1	1	4	-2	5	1	2	0
	Y	0	-6	-5	-3	-1	-5	-5	2	2	8	6	13	17	17
7	X	0	2	11	-3	4	5	7	15	15	18	16	12	25	13
	Y	-5	-11	-6	-8	0	-2	-4	-8	-5	-2	-3	7	13	15
9	X	1	2	12	-8	6	1	5	12	11	13	14	10	18	14
	Y	-5	-3	-3	-2	2	-4	-6	-5	-2	-1	0	9	17	16
11	X	3	-1	9	-5	-1	5	9	10	4	8	11	7	16	7
	Y	5	2	5	5	1	0	-3	0	5	6	11	15	18	25
13	X	-4	-4	6	3	5	0	10	12	9	7	13	9	16	14
	Y	-5	-3	0	-1	4	-2	-4	-9	-4	-2	0	6	13	11
15	X	-1	-10	-3	-9	0	-6	-2	-6	0	-6	4	-9	1	-6
	Y	-1	1	-2	2	2	-6	-9	-8	-3	0	2	9	13	15
17	X	-6	-4	-3	-7	3	-2	-6	-6	-3	-5	0	-4	7	2
	Y	0	1	-1	0	1	-6	-9	-13	-3	1	2	9	16	14
19	X	-6	-8	1	-7	4	1	3	1	-2	-2	7	5	11	7
	Y	-8	-9	-4	-2	0	-10	-11	-14	-7	-5	-1	5	12	9
21	X	-14	-7	-1	-7	4	-2	6	-7	-6	-4	-4	-5	7	-4
	Y	-6	-9	-5	-4	0	-6	-14	-9	-5	2	3	6	17	14
23	X	-12	-10	-3	-16	-2	-3	4	0	3	-5	-2	-3	5	-1
	Y	-5	-6	-5	-4	-2	-1	-3	-6	-1	1	-1	3	8	8
25	X	-13	-14	-5	-11	-5	-6	-6	2	-5	-5	-2	-3	1	-3
	Y	-14	-12	-10	-7	-5	-4	-12	-11	-7	-8	-4	-2	7	7
27	X	-20	-17	-6	-16	-4	-13	-8	-8	-7	-13	-6	-9	-3	-6
	Y	-22	-16	-16	-14	-12	-13	-14	-15	-16	-13	-13	-10	-5	-2

Table 2b:		Nominal Values (mm)													
		A	C	E	G	I	K	M	O	Q	S	U	W	Y	AA
1	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65
3	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55
5	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
7	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
9	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
11	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
13	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
15	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5
17	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	-15	-15	-15	-15	-15	-15	-15	-15	-15	-15	-15	-15	-15	-15
19	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25
21	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	-35	-35	-35	-35	-35	-35	-35	-35	-35	-35	-35	-35	-35	-35
23	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45
25	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	-55	-55	-55	-55	-55	-55	-55	-55	-55	-55	-55	-55	-55	-55
27	X	-65	-55	-45	-35	-25	-15	-5	5	15	25	35	45	55	65
	Y	-65	-65	-65	-65	-65	-65	-65	-65	-65	-65	-65	-65	-65	-65